

Lafayette County Courthouse
Courthouse Square
Oxford
Lafayette County
Mississippi

HABS No. MS-268

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE MISSISSIPPI	COUNTY LAFAYETTE	TOWN OR VICINITY OXFORD
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Lafayette County Courthouse		HABS NO. MS-268
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) Court House Square		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1871-1873. National Register Files	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) S. Boling. Original drawings are signed and dated April, 1871. Nat. Reg.	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) A locally significant example of eclecticism from the post Civil War period. The Courthouse is one of the oldest in the State and has been in continuous use as a courthouse. See Greek Revival in porticos and the pilastered frontispieces.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Eclectic showing influence of Greek Revival. Heavily bracketed cornice, arched fenestration and prominent cupola are concessions to Italianate		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) stuccoed masonry		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) The three-storied, rectangular building was originally five bays, but was extended by two larger bays on each end.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Pedimented porticos project from center bays on long sides, and are raised on arcades. A square, tin-domed cupola with clock faces above paired, semi-circular windows tops building. Full length pilasters divide the original bays.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) The principal interior feature is an elegant stairway with subtly curving rail and turned balusters.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES The original five bay building was extended in 1953, almost doubling the space but repeating the original end wall elevation. Multiple brick chimneys have disappeared.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Although the condition is listed as good, the original finishes, interior and exterior, have been poorly maintained or modified. Presently open to the public.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE Described by William Faulkner in "Requiem for a Nun" as the courthouse in the fictional town of Jefferson in Yoknapatawpha County. The original court furnishings remain		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Compiled entirely from the National Register Files		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Marion K Schlefer, Historic American Buildings Survey		DATE September 1984